

graduate schools at the University of Michigan, Johns Hopkins University, and the University of Alaska. He has received Master of Science Degrees in Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, and Engineering Management. He also attended the U.S. Naval War College in Newport, RI and graduated with Highest Distinction. Admiral Kramek was selected for Flag rank in 1986. After selection for Flag rank, he completed the "Capstone" Program at the National Defense University Institute of Higher Defense Studies.

ADM Kramek had many assignments before relieving ADM J. William Kime as Commandant on June 1, 1994. He was Chief of Staff of the U.S. Coast Guard and commanded two Coast Guard Districts: the 13th District in the Pacific Northwest and the 7th District in the Southeast U.S. and Caribbean. He commanded the Coast Guard Base at Governors Island, New York. He led the interdiction and rescue of 37,000 Haitians when he commanded the High Endurance Cutter *Midgett* and the Haitian Migration Task Force. During this same time period, he was also on the Drug Czar's Coordinator for the War on Drugs in the Southeast U.S. and Caribbean. He served as Regional Emergency Transportation Coordinator (RETCO) for the Secretary of Transportation in the Pacific Northwest. He also commanded Maritime Defense Zone sectors Pacific Northwest and Sector 7 Southeast U.S., which are Navy Coastal Defense Commands.

During his four years as Commandant, ADM Kramek has been responsible for many achievements within the U.S. Coast Guard. He launched four new classes of cutters: The *Keeper*- and *Juniper*-class buoytenders, the 87 foot Patrol Boat, and the Polar Icebreaker. He led the Coast Guard in an international effort to target chokepoints in the illegal drug trade, while overseeing record-setting cocaine seizures in Operations Frontier Shield, Gulf Shield, and Frontier Lance. He oversaw the integration of Reserve forces with the active-duty Coast Guard and advanced the Coast Guard's reputation as the world's premier maritime service. He created a fully integrated leadership development program that led to the Leadership Development Center of Excellence. He negotiated a memorandum of understanding with the Russian Federal Border Service that led to joint U.S.-Russian operations in the Bering Sea. He also set a government-wide example in National Performance Review improvements and signed a memorandum of agreement with the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Transportation defining the Coast Guard's unique defense role in the post-Cold War era.

In addition to his accomplishments, ADM Kramek has received many awards. These awards include two CG Distinguished Service Medals, two Legion of Merit awards, the Meritorious Service Medal, four CG Commendation Medals, the CG Achievement Medal, CG Unit Commendations, the Meritorious Unit Commendation, the Special Operations Ribbon with silver star, the Humanitarian Service Medal with bronze star, and the Sea Service Ribbon with bronze star.

Admiral Kramek has left his own personal influence on the Coast Guard, which has helped make the United States Coast Guard such a valuable part of this country. Let us not forget the man we honor today, who lives his life to serve the United States of America.

Congratulations to Admiral Robert E. Kramek on his extraordinary life and career, and may God continue to bless him, his wife Patricia, and his four children, Tracy, Joseph, Suzanne, and Nancy.

"VIETNAM: THE LAND WE NEVER KNEW"—GEOFFREY CLIFFORD'S PHOTO EXHIBIT ABOUT PEOPLE, NOT WAR

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 1998

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege for me to call to the attention of my colleagues the work of an exceptional Bay Area photographer, Mr. Geoffrey Clifford. In an exhibit of his photographs—"Vietnam: The Land We Never Knew"—he shares with us his images of the people of Vietnam. I believe that it would be helpful for all of us to view Mr. Clifford's beautiful pictures, to obtain a greater understanding of the innate beauty of Vietnam, its ancient culture and its strong people. Those photographs are on display this week in the Cannon Rotunda here on Capitol Hill, and I urge my colleagues to stop for a moment to enjoy this outstanding exhibit.

Geoffrey Clifford first arrived in Vietnam not as a photographer, but as a soldier. He served his country as a helicopter pilot for 10½ months during the early 1970's, flying combat assaults and supply missions from bases in Chu Lai and Da Nang. He experienced Vietnam during its greatest turmoil, when its citizens were divided and its communities and landscapes ravaged by war.

Upon his return to the United States in 1972, Mr. Clifford built a career and started a family. But he never forgot Vietnam, and his inescapable memories led to his return many years later. As he wrote in the introduction of his stirring book "The Land We Never Knew" (San Francisco: Chronicle Books, 1989):

I was never able to wander along Vietnam's back roads, experiencing life as it might be in that country; never able to see, feel, smell, touch or taste what I wanted; and most frustratingly, never able to make friends with the Vietnamese, to share common feelings in conversation with innocent people. . . . Vietnam was a trauma that had been lingering inside me for more than a decade. Photography allowed me to return and assemble a body of work that might benefit our progress. My sincerest wish is that this book, this "work in progress," will aid others with their perceptions of Vietnam and help guide us away from future tragedies.

"The Land We Never Knew" has achieved tremendous critical success, as Clifford's pictures are skillfully laid out and beautifully complemented by the poetic and thoughtful text of John Balaban, a professor of English at Pennsylvania State University. The brilliance of this book reflects years of diligent effort by these men; of the 10,000 photographs taken by Clifford over a period of several years, only the finest 200 made it into the book. Wrote the Los Angeles Times: "His handsome pictures celebrate the beauties of the land and the resilience of its people." Since "The Land We Never Knew" was published, Clifford's work has appeared in Life, Travel and Leisure, Fortune, and the New York Times Magazine.

Today, Mr. Speaker, the House will debate the future of our relationship with Vietnam. Trade, security, and POW/MIA issues may be discussed. Regardless of one's position on these important matters, I believe that it would be of great benefit to each and every one of my colleagues to view this exhibit, as the true beauty of Clifford's pictures rests in its apolitical content.

In contrast to most of the Vietnam images that we have seen over the past half-century—war, destruction, bloodshed, assassination—the theme of "The Land We Never Knew" is one of resilience. Despite decades of destruction to the culture and communities of Vietnam, we see in Clifford's photographs a people that refuse to allow a legacy of three millenniums collapse in a heap of napalm, bombing, and death. We witness in this beautiful book landscapes that reflect this irrepressibility—beautiful forests, river villages, and lotus ponds that display a pristine radiance seemingly unaffected by years of military strikes and counterstrikes. "The Land We Never Knew" is about the Vietnamese nation, not the Vietnamese government. It is about the people of Vietnam, not the Vietnam War.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in praising Geoffrey Clifford, who so ably uses his wondrous talents to communicate a greater understanding and appreciation for Vietnam. I strongly urge my fellow Members to admire his exhibit this week in the Cannon Rotunda.

**TRIBUTE TO JEFFERSON
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

HON. GEORGE P. RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 30, 1998

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Jefferson Elementary School. Jefferson Elementary has been credited as a California Distinguished School. The faculty and students of Jefferson Elementary exemplify excellence with exceptional student achievement.

Reflecting their school's motto, "High Above the Rest", Jefferson students demonstrate the highest tradition of individual academic success, school pride and ownership of their educational facility. Jefferson Elementary's mission is to enable each student to have equal access to the core curriculum regardless of his/her academic and language proficiency. Jefferson's school-wide goals are linked to their District's Mission. Jefferson has developed strong partnerships with the School Site Council (SSC) and the Bilingual Advisory Committee (BAC). Their "Student Compact" actively involves students, parents and teachers in focusing on the importance of student achievement and accountability, both academic and social.

Jefferson School is a well-established K-6 campus located on the southeast side of Dinuba (population 13,950) in rural Tulare County. Jefferson School serves approximately 700 students and their families. They are one of five schools (K-6) in the Dinuba Elementary School District. Dinuba Elementary School District has been experiencing steady growth in the student population over a number of years. Today it serves nearly 3,000 students.